



**United Steelworkers
Five Gateway Center
Pittsburgh PA 15222
USA**

**Unite
128 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8TN
UK**

18 February 2013

Enrique Peña Nieto
President of Mexico

Dear Mr. President

TRADE UNION RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN MEXICO

On the occasion of your recent inauguration as President of Mexico, Labor Rights organizations from around the world have joined together to urge you to make every effort to resolve the systematic violations of workers' rights across all industrial sectors and regions of Mexico.

From February 18-24, 2013, more than 10,000 activists from around the world, shocked by the systematic attacks on trade union rights in Mexico, will mobilize for trade union rights in Mexico and meet with Mexican embassies and consulates around the globe to demand justice. The week marks the anniversary of the terrible Pasta de Conchos mine disaster in 2006 that killed 65 miners. The refusal of the Mexican government and employer Grupo Mexico to recover the bodies of 63 miners who remain entombed is widely suspected to be an effort to cover up the real causes of the disaster and the inadequacy of rescue efforts.

Felipe Calderón has left behind a legacy of major unresolved labor disputes, persecution of democratic trade unionism, and the decomposition of labor relations generating an entrenched system of protection contracts that do not represent workers' true interests. These issues --combined with the recent reform of the Federal Labor Law passed with support from your party, the PRI -- create extremely dire conditions for Mexican workers that violate the fundamental Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labor Organization.

Democratic trade unions and the workers they represent in Mexico continually struggle to exercise their labor rights. They are consistently persecuted, arrested, and "criminalized" when they protest and mobilize against attacks from companies and federal and local authorities.

Egregious examples include the leader of the Mexican miners' union, Napoleon Gómez Urrutia, who has been forced to live in exile since 2006 after calling for justice for the families of the for 65 miners killed in the Pasta de Conchos explosion; the 16,599 members of the Mexican Electrical Workers' Union (SME) who refused severance after their union was dismantled via a presidential decree and have stood in resistance for three years; and the Atento call center workers organized in the Mexican Telephone Workers Union (STRM) who continue to be controlled by a union that does not represent their interests.

Further, workers continue to be systematically excluded from any process of collective bargaining. Both Local and Federal Labor Boards have repeatedly blocked workers' efforts to form democratic unions by approving protection contracts signed between employers and employer-dominated unions without the approval or even the knowledge of the workers.

We express our deep concern with regards to the recently passed reforms to the Federal Labor law which hinder labor rights for all Mexican workers. The reform erodes job security by expanding the ways in which workers may be hired on temporary, part time, seasonal, training and probation contracts, allowing new forms of individual contracts and also facilitating unjust firing by limiting back pay.

This reform, which contravenes the Decent Work platform promoted by the ILO and the global trade union movement, will generate an extremely negative impact on the social security system as a whole and limit access by those most in need. By making workers' continued employment will be completely subject to the discretion of the employer, the reform will also impede freedom of association and collective bargaining rights

As you know, comprehensive immigration reform is a top priority for the U.S. labor movement. We have been in the front lines fighting to ensure that the labor and human rights of undocumented workers in the country are respected. We understand that one of the best ways to guarantee inclusive economic growth is by guaranteeing the fundamental rights of all workers.

As the United States Government considers comprehensive immigration reform, we hope that you will reaffirm your commitment to not only protecting the rights of immigrant workers in the United States but also ensuring that the rights of all workers are also rigorously protected and enforced in Mexico.

In view of the foregoing and in an attempt to rebuild the broken-down labor relations situation your government inherited, we respectfully request that you intervene in the matter to ensure that these issues are resolved.

We ask that your government return the former Luz y Fuerza del Centro workers to their jobs and respect the terms of the SME contract ; drop the politically motivated charges against Los Mineros and SME leaders and release jailed members; compel t Grupo Mexico to restore dialogue and ensure a negotiated end to the almost 6 year-old strikes at Cananea, Sombrerete and Taxco; promote the necessary investment to permit Mexicana de Aviación to once again take to the skies; ensure that BATA/Sandak respects the labor rights of its workers including the right to strike; and order the following companies to reinstate unlawfully fired union activists and workers and ensure free and fair union elections: PKC Group, Excellon Resources, Bain Capital/Atento Mexico, Grupo Modelo, and Honda.

We also ask that your government uphold its constitutional obligations to bring domestic law into line with international treaties; not interfere in the legal challenges to the regressive reform of the Federal Labor Law filed by hundreds of thousands of workers in January 2013; and adhere to the ILO's repeated recommendations on protection unionism and occupational health and safety.

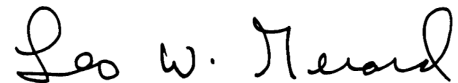
We appreciate your attention to this matter and await a positive response to our request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Len m Cluskey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Len McCluskey

**General Secretary Unite the Union, UK and Republic Of Ireland
Joint Chair of Workers Uniting**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Leo Gerard
International President, United Steelworkers, USA and Canada
Joint Chair of Workers Uniting**